

Dendrobium whistleri Cribb

Dendrobium gordonii sensu L.O. Williams,
pro parte; non S. Moore

Dendrobium macrophyllum sensu Whistler
non A. Rich.

Dendrobium waterhousei sensu Whistler
non Carr.

SAMOAN NAME: none

ENGLISH NAME: none

STATUS: rare Samoa endemic

REASON FOR LISTING: rarity of collections

SUGGESTED ACTION: Not much can be done for this orchid, since epiphytic orchids are hard to locate because they are often high up in the forest canopy. Its infrequency of collection may be a result of this rather than actual rarity.



Indigenous to Samoa, also found in the Solomon Islands. It is restricted in Samoa to 'Upolu, where it occurs in montane forest, reported from 600 to 700 m elevation. No Samoan names or uses are reported.

Medium-sized epiphytic orchid with spreading to pendent, subclavate pseudobulbs 15–22 cm long, 0.5–0.6 cm in diameter above, turning yellow with age, 5–7-noded, 1- or 2-leafed. **Leaves** simple, alternate, coriaceous; blade lanceolate, 12–18 x 2–2.5 cm, attenuate at the base, acuminate at the tip; surfaces glabrous; margins entire; petiole ca. 5 mm long. **Inflorescence** a lateral or subterminal, laxly 3–5-flowered raceme shorter than the leaves, with a peduncle up to 5 cm long bearing conduplicate, lanceolate, acuminate-tipped bracts 4–7 mm long; flowers probably self-pollinating, not opening widely, white with purple on the lip, pedicel and ovary 9–15 mm long. Sepals unequal; dorsal sepal lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 9–11 x 3–4 mm; lateral sepals obliquely lanceolate, acuminate at the tip, 10–11 x 3.5–4 mm; mentum obliquely conical, ca. 3 mm long. **Petals** lanceolate, acute at the tip, 9–10 mm x ca. 2 mm. Lip long-clawed, 3-lobed, ca. 9 x 6 mm when flattened; side lobes erect, obliquely oblong, somewhat rounded in front; midlobe subquadrate-transversely elliptic, shortly aciculate, ca. 3.5 x 4 mm; callus 3-ridged from the base to the base of the midlobe; column ca. 3 mm long with an erose apical margin; foot ca. 3 mm long. **Fruit** a fusiform capsule ca. 2.5 cm long. **Flowering** reported in July, but both flowering and fruiting probably of longer duration.

Distinguishable by its medium-sized epiphytic herb habit; 1 or 2 terminal leaves; laxly 3–5-flowered raceme; white flowers with the petals and sepals less than 9–11 mm long; and the lip marked with purple.

UPOLU:

Graeffe 1242—Without further locality.

Whistler 1183—Montane forest near Mt. Le Pu'e at 700 m elevation.

Whistler 3867—Montane forest just north of Tiävi lookout at ca. 700 m elevation.